

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING OLD FARM
CHRISTMAS PLACE OF MAINE

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, December in Maine invokes the classic images of Christmas. The wonders of children sledding down snow-covered hills and small towns enveloped in December's darkness while illuminated by the glow of twinkling lights. One of the most memorable parts of any Christmas celebration revolves around the selection and decoration of the perfect tree. Today I rise to commend and recognize the Old Farm Christmas Place of Maine, a small business that allows families throughout the Nation to enjoy the tradition of selecting and cutting down their own Christmas tree.

The Old Farm Christmas Place of Maine, located in the coastal town of Cape Elizabeth, opened in November of 2010. Jay Cox, the owner of Old Farm, purchased the historic Dyer-Hutchinson farmhouse in 2001. Built in 1790, the Old Farm stands as a testament to Maine's rich history and in 1997 was accepted into the National Registry of Historic Places. After substantial renovations to the historic property, Jay planted his first Christmas trees in the spring of 2004 on the 50-acre property. Finally, last year, with roughly 18,000 trees planted and 1,000 trees ready to be sold, Jay opened up his winter wonderland.

This small business provides a unique tree-cutting venture and invites families to experience the joy of selecting the perfect tree. At Old Farm, this is a journey that begins with a wagon ride over the farmland onto the fields where families can explore acres of the beautiful farm until they find their ideal tree. Once this perfect tree is selected, they will assist you in cutting down the tree and loading it into your car or even delivering it to local areas throughout the State. Lastly, as Maine's winters can be frigid, families can finish the experience warming themselves by the fire inside the Old Farm store while sipping delectable cider and rich hot chocolate.

Jay comes from a family of Christmas tree enthusiasts; his parents owned and operated Dun Roamin' Christmas Tree Farm in Cape Elizabeth for 25 years. That farm now makes wreaths which are sold at the Old Farm Christmas Place store. The storefront also carries several locally made Christmas decorations and ornaments to adorn households near and far, adding a new element to the traditional tree farm selection.

As opening a small business is a daunting task, Jay Cox's dedication for nearly a decade to open a Christmas tree farm and storefront reminiscent of old times and tradition is truly inspiring. I am proud to extend my congratulations to everyone at the Old Farm Christmas Place of Maine for their tremendous efforts and offer my best wishes for continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1541. An act to revise the Federal charter for the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. to reflect a change in eligibility requirements for membership.

S. 1639. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Legion under its Federal charter to provide guidance and leadership to the individual departments and posts of the American Legion, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1021. An act to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts.

H.R. 2297. An act to promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2405. An act to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act relating to public health preparedness and countermeasure development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2471. An act to amend section 2710 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that a video tape service provider may obtain a consumer's informed, written consent on an ongoing basis and that consent may be obtained through the Internet.

H.R. 3237. An act to amend the SOAR Act by clarifying the scope of coverage of the Act.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S.J. Res. 22. Joint resolution to grant the consent of Congress to an amendment to the compact between the States of Missouri and Illinois providing that bonds issued by the Bi-State Development Agency may mature in not to exceed 40 years.

At 4:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoint the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MCKEON, BARTLETT, THORNBERRY, AKIN, FORBES, MILLER of Florida, LOBIONDO, TURNER of Ohio, KLINE, ROGERS of Alabama, SHUSTER, CONAWAY, WITTMAN, HUNTER, ROONEY, SCHILLING, GRIFFIN of Arkansas, WEST,

SMITH of Washington, REYES, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Messrs. MCINTYRE, ANDREWS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, Ms. BORDALLO, Messrs. COURTNEY, LOEBSACK, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. RUPERSBURGER.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of section 548 and 572 of the House bill, and sections 572 and 573 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. PETRI, HECK, and GEORGE MILLER of California.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of sections 911, 1099A, 2852, and 3114 of the House bill, and section 1089 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to the conference: Messrs. UPTON, WALDEN, and WAXMAN.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of section 645 of the House bill, and section 1245 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. ACKERMAN.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of sections 1013, 1014, 1055, 1056, 1086, 1092, 1202, 1204, 1205, 1211, 1214, 1216, 1218, 1219, 1226, 1228–1230, 1237, 1301, 1303, 1532, 1533, and 3112 of the House bill, and sections 159, 1012, 1031, 1033, 1046, 1201, 1203, 1204, 1206–1209, 1221–1225, 1228, 1230, 1245, title XIII and section 1609 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. BERMAN.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of section 1099H of the House bill, and section 1092 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. DANIEL LUNGREN of California, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 531 of subtitle D of title V, 573, 843, and 2804 of the House bill, and section 553 and 848 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SMITH of Texas, COBLE, and CONYERS.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of sections 313, 601, and 1097 of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HASTINGS of Washington, BISHOP of Utah, and MARKEY.

From the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of sections 598, 662, 803, 813, 844, 847, 849, 937–939, 1081, 1091, 1101–1111, 1116, and 2813 of the House bill, and sections 827, 845, 1044, 1102–1107, and 2812 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ROSS of Florida, LANKFORD, and CUMMINGS.